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PANAMA STRIKE DOESN'T APPEAR

Events Protesting Arias Overthrow Scattered

PANAMA (AP)—Bus traffic was well below normal, some suburban streets were barricaded and cars were burned, but attempts to mount a general strike to protest the overthrow of Arnulfo Arias as president appeared to have failed Monday.

A march by students and women sympathizers of Arias did not come off. Almost all business firms in downtown Panama were open, but most of them had their steel riot protection shutters in place.

The shortage of buses gave the streets a semi-deserted look.

A call was made Sunday by a large number of small labor unions for a 72-hour strike in support of Arias, now in refuge in the U.S.-controlled Canal Zone. He was ousted from power Oct. 11 by the national guard after less than two weeks in office.

The national guard is Panama's only major military force.

A spokesman at national guard headquarters said no political demonstrations would be permitted while the nation remains under the post-coup state of siege. He said military patrols would protect businesses which elected to stay open.

The core of antigovernment resistance appeared to be in the lower class suburb of San Miguelito. There, guardsmen fired shots in the air to disperse milling bands of youths and arrested many of them.

The youths had barricaded the strets and set fire to two or three cars and heaps of rubbish.

The also littered streets with broken glass and nails. Gas stations had a rush business repairing flat tires.

Reports from the interior of the country indicated the situation outside the capital was normal.